

SIERRA CLUB – ANGELES CHAPTER HISTORY

A STROLL THROUGH THE ARCHIVES



By Bob Cates

Camera Committee, April 9, 2012

What Are the Angeles Chapter Archives?

What Are the Angeles Chapter Archives?

Paper Documents

Minutes (Ex-comm, Conservation Comm, etc)

Angeles Chapter Publications

Activity Schedules

Southern Sierran

Chapter Entities Newsletters

Membership Rosters

National Sierra Club Publications

Sierra Club Bulletin, Sierra Magazine

Non-SC Publications

Summit Magazine

Desert Magazine

Newspaper/Magazine Clippings

Ephemera

e.g., Banquet Programs, Brochures, etc.

Oral Histories

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e.g., Banquet Programs, Brochures, etc.

Oral Histories

Photographic Images

Historic Albums

Approx 12 Pre-WWII Albums

Knapp Albums (approx 40) scanned

Personal Collections from Donors

Color prints (approx 300)

Slides (approx 40,000)

“Duplicated” Collections (originals returned to donors after scanning)

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Knapp Albums (25?) at Colby Library

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E-archive

Image Collections in the Angeles Chapter Archives

Anonymous	158 images	R.S. "Sam" Fink	55	Donna O'Shaughnessy	62
Steve Anderson	38	Edna Gannon	51	Bright Paxton	65
Hiram Bailey	11	Chuck Gerckens	22	Les & Sally Reid	26
Rosie & Lloyd Balsam	81	Alice Goldberg	511	John W. Robinson	419
William Barry	32	Ottmar Goebel	24	Mike Sappingfield	217
Wynne Benti	13	Jim & Louise Gorin	254	Carole Scurlock	46
Randy Bernard	16	David Haake	63	H.M. Severance	11
Phil Bernays	8	George Harr	32	Nayan Shah	117
Al Campbell	28	Weldon Heald	14	George Shochat	44
Bob Cates	6245	Henry Heusinkveld	84	Betty Southam	20
Nate Clark	38	Peter Ireland	141	Ellen Sparks	113
D.D. Chalmers	153	Fred Johnson	63	H.C. Stinchfield	9
Chapter Miscellany	33	Bob Kanne	7	Howard Strauss	40
Irene Charnock	5	Jerry Keating	178	Les Stockton	65
Walter Clark	37	Elsie & Eric Kent	116	H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant	136
Edgar W. Cook	68	Jim Kilberg	54	Bob Thompson	35
Glen Dawson	715	Alice Knapp	400	George Thuro	229
Muir Dawson	43	Brian Leverich	46	Brent Washburne	184
Allan Der	241	Barbara Lilley	10	Louise and Niles Werner	201
Ephemera	213	Margaret Malm	189	Walt Wheelock	33
David F Eisenberg	664	Peter Mason	5	Ellen & Chuck Wilts	145
Gill Estrada	124	Pat Meixner	16	Lucy & Dick Woodward	36
Mary Ferguson	26	John Nienhuis	9	Dick Worsfold	667
				Cliff Youngquist	6

How Did the Archives Come to Be?

Father of the Archives – Glen Dawson



Glen Dawson holding early bound records and photograph of Aurelia Harwood. Photo taken at Chapter Offices, November 2003. Cates Collection.

- Gathered earliest Chapter documents and had them bound in 1930
- Given life membership by Aurelia Harwood in 1920
- Represented chapter on National Board of Directors
- Pioneer rock climber and ski mountaineer
- Former co-owner with brother Muir Dawson of Dawson's Book Shop
- Father Ernest was a President of the Sierra Club

Note on flyleaf of earliest bound records

Nov 3, 1930.

These early schedules were presented by
Mrs Sophie Braun.

The clippings and letters were gathered
by Glen Dawson, and the whole
arranged and bound ^{FOR} by him.

Rebound for Glen Dawson by R. PATRICK 1-14-85

Mother of the Archives



IRENE CHARNOCK
1898-1984

- Leader in Nature Study Group, Natural Science Section, Local Hikes, Desert Peaks Section, Camping Committee, Evening Dinners Committee
- Angeles Chapter Phil Bernays Service Award (1969)
- The ‘volunteer extraordinaire’. During her long Sierra Club career, she took on an amazing number of roles: Executive Committee, 1947-50, 1952, 1957-58; Chapter Chair, 1958; Conservation Committee, 1951-66; Natural Science Section Chair, Hundred Peaks Section Emblem-Holder, *Southern Sierran* editor, reporter and subscription manager, volunteer assistant treasurer, and chair of a one-person History Committee for many years. The chapter’s highest volunteer service award is named in her honor.
- Chaired one-person History Committee for many years. Rented office next door to chapter office in Philharmonic Building off Pershing Square to store records, photographs, copies of newsletters and schedules

Mother of the Archives – Irene Charnock



History Committee with van-full of material removed from Irene's house



L to R: John Ripley, Maureen Cates, Bob Cates, Paul Clark

1984

eArchive Documentation



Description: Large group photograph showing John Muir (rt center) surrounded by approximately 70 people all formally dressed. Muir is the older bearded man sitting at right center. Professor Everett Shepardson is about three over to the right from Muir, the bearded bald-headed man with his arms around a girl dressed in white. Immediately to the left of Shepardson, sporting a trimmed mustache, is Charles J. Fox. Phil Bernays is second from left in second row from the front, immediately to the left of the prominent woman in the white blouse. The head of Bright R. Paxton can be seen just behind the girl in white sitting in the center of the front row. Probably taken at one of the Southern California Chapter's Annual Campfires at Griffith Park, between 1911 and 1914. See notes at beginning of this document for more background about this image. Also see images Paxton0002-Paxton0004 for same image made with different scanner settings.

Photographer: Bright Paxton

Donor: Elouise Paxton Corwin

Original: Retained by donor.

Credit: Bright R. Paxton Collection, Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter Archives

Image ID (file name): Paxton0001

**Let's Look at Some of the Collections
Starting with the Anonymous Collection**



The first Chapter Banquet, April 19, 1912, at the Mt. Washington Hotel in Highland Park

Anonymous Collection



A rare portrait of Aurelia Harwood in the mountains

- First woman president of Sierra Club
- Died in her second term in office in 1928
- Wealthy family in Upland
- Helped establish Mt. San Jacinto State Park
- Helped finance chapter endeavors (i.e., Muir Lodge, Baldy Cabin)
- Endowments to the Claremont Colleges
- Mt. Harwood and Harwood Lodge named after her

“Because of her, wild flowers lead a safer life, forests tower more grandly skyward, and many learn again the ancient lesson as they look toward the mountains with eyes that see and hearts that understand.”—Aurelia Henry Reinhart

Anonymous Collection

Baldy Cabin was an old miner's cabin near Baldy Notch that was leased by the chapter 1922 to 1929



Cliff Youngquist

Edgar W. Cook

Anonymous Collection



Palm Springs about 1916.

A chapter outing to Palm Springs c. 1916

Anonymous Collection



Sierrans hiking in the San Gabriels c. 1917

Note hiking suits and ties for the men, hobnail boots on women

Anonymous Collection



This is the 1st Baldy Ski
Hut, built by the Ski Moun-
taineers in the fall of 1935.
It was destroyed by all water.

Dear Ruth, About 1940 (?)
Enclosed is an article that
will interest you. Also a picture of the
first Baldy Hut which I took last th-

Geo. Bauwens was the second chairman of
the Ski Mountaineers Section, so signed
GEORGE D. BAUWENS

REGISTERED MEMBER AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

The first San Antonio Ski hut – built in late 1935 and soon after burned down – replaced in 1936 and still standing

Anonymous Collection



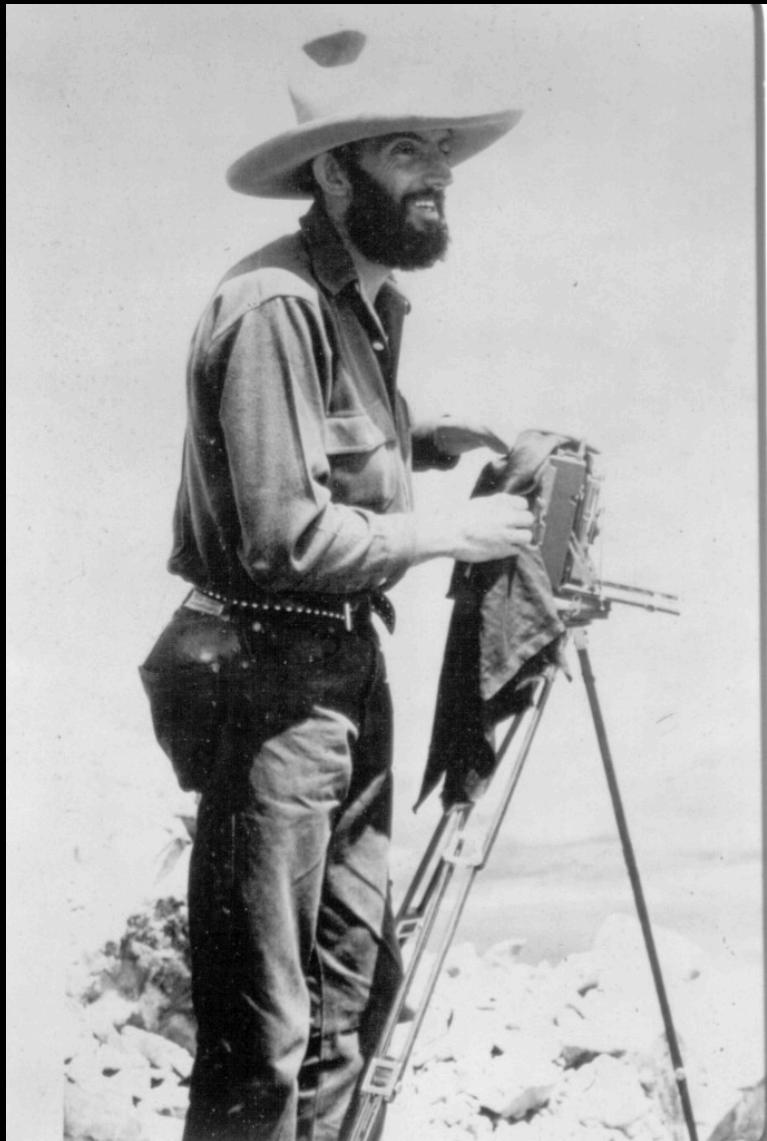
A group of Sierrans on a 1930s High Trip drying out after a storm. L to R: Nathan Clark, Ansel Adams, Virginia Adams, Alberta Wright, Dorris Barr, Cedric Wright, Mrs. Wright

Anonymous Collection



High Trip Antics – The actors in the farcical play “Exhaustos” written and directed by Ansel Adams
(Note Ansel Adams in foreground playing lyre.)

Anonymous Collection



Ansel Adams on a 1930s High trip



Dr. Walter Mosaur, founder of the Ski Mountaineers Section, 1935



#11

Taken in Rubio Canyon

Rubio Canyon March 22, 1910
My first trip with some hikers who said
they were Sierra Club Members Wm C Barry

William C. Barry Collection

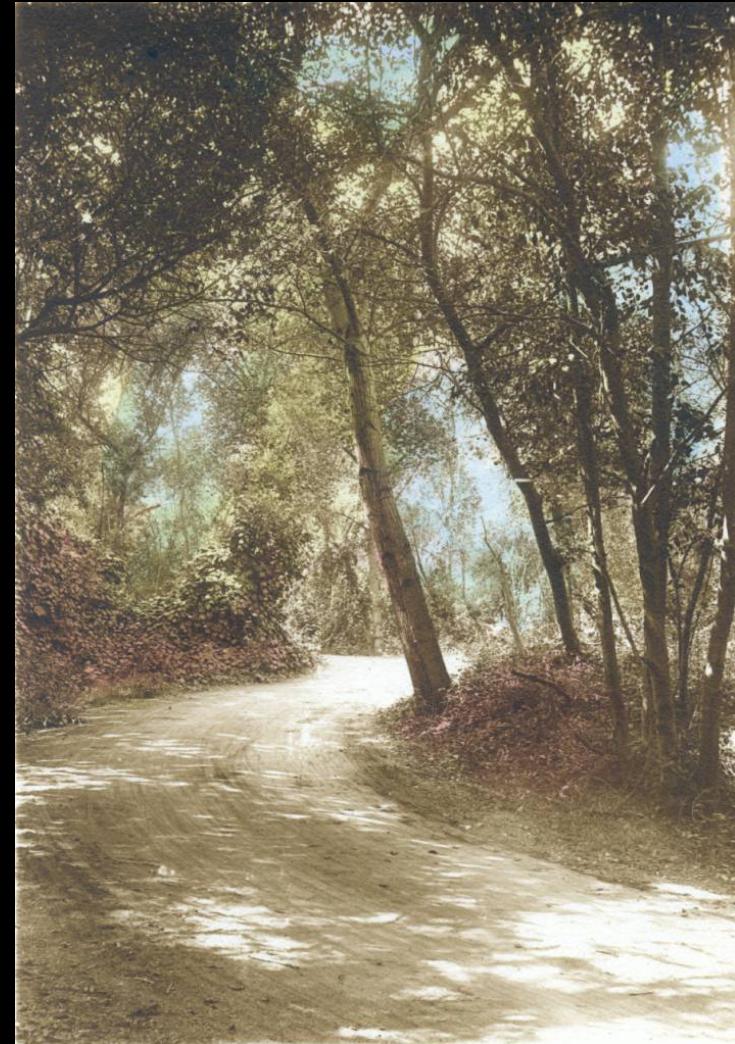
Bill Barry was an active leader in the early years of the chapter. His photo at left is one of the earliest in the collection, taken the year before the Southern California Section was founded.

William C. Barry Collection

Hand-Tinted Photos



The Chapel at Switzer's Camp



Griffith Park

William C. Barry Collection



Sierra Club float in Rose Parade, Jan. 1, 1923

William C. Barry Collection



Alice Knapp

Cliff Youngquist

Ernest Dawson

William C. Barry Collection

Edgar W. Cook

Elizabeth Cook



Wm. C. Barry

Phil Bernays Collection



**Phil Bernays and fellow Sierrans dedicate Muir Lodge site in the Fall of 1912.
Kneeling at far right is Charles J. Fox, who chaired the chapter 8 of the first 15 years.**

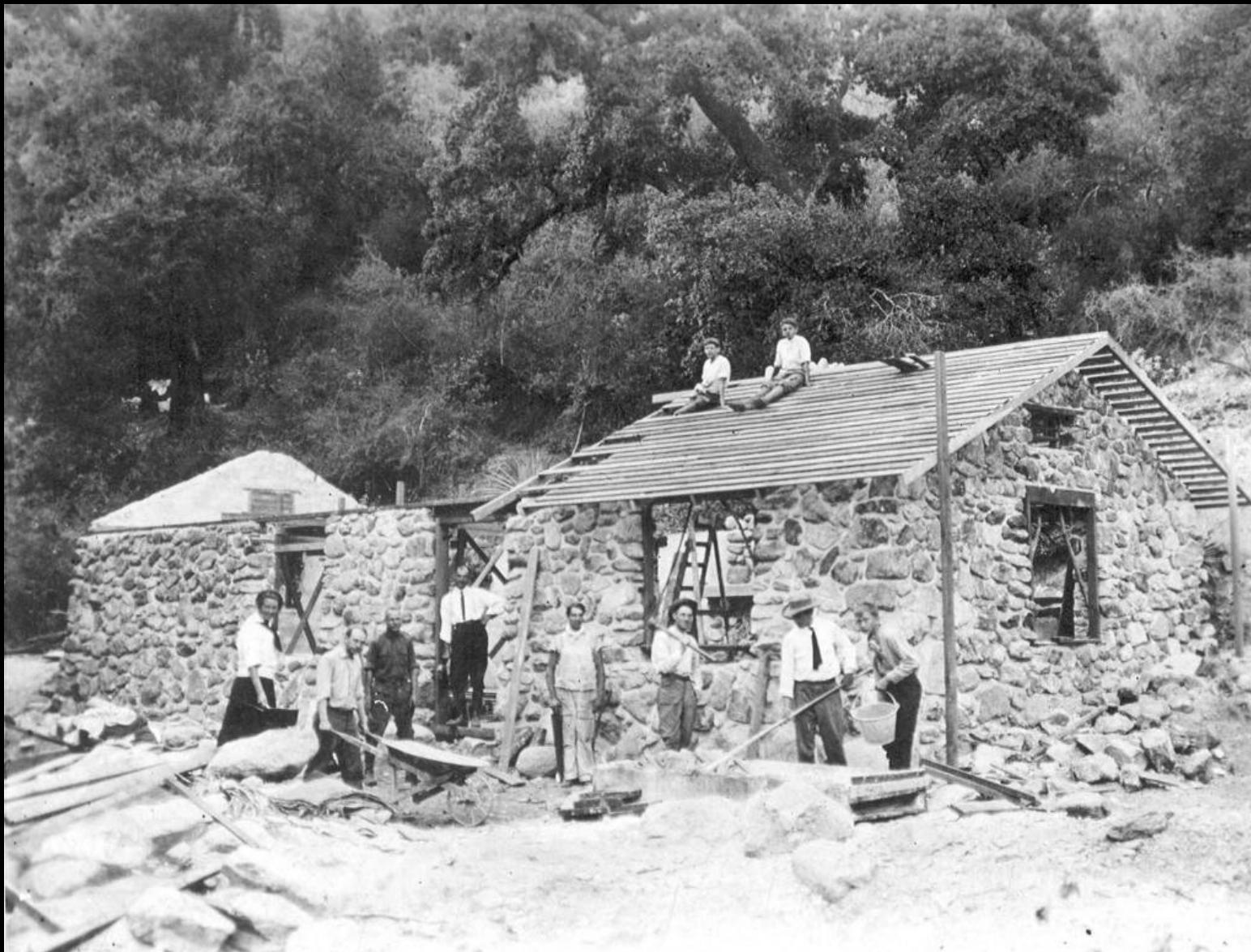
Phil Bernays Collection

Muir Lodge cost \$1300 and was designed and built by volunteers
except for one paid carpenter/mason



Phil Bernays presides at the head of the table. Sitting on near side, left to right, are Charles Fox (mustache), Chester Versteeg (close-cropped hair), unidentified woman. Sitting on far side, left to right, are Lester Moore (Muir Lodge architect, wearing tie), a man identified as Moore's brother-in-law, Ralph Bernays (Phil's younger brother), and an unidentified hired carpenter

Phil Bernays Collection



Phil Bernays with wheelbarrow, Architect Lester Moore mixing cement

Phil Bernays Collection



Chester Versteeg (holding saw) worked almost all of his summer vacation on the lodge

Phil Bernays Collection

The Lodge was decorated with bunting and formally dedicated on October 4, 1913,
Chapter Chair Clair Taapaan officiating.



A baby sequoia tree was planted and this tree is all that remains of the lodge today.

Muir Lodge

For nearly three decades, the lodge served as the social center of the chapter



Photo from Edgar W. Cook Collection

Most arrived by foot, first taking a streetcar to the end of the line in Sierra Madre, then hiking a six mile trail to the lodge. Heavy items and goods were brought in via Chantry's Pack Station.

Muir Lodge

The lodge featured Craftsman Style interior



Photo from Charles J. Fox Collection

Some of the financing was obtained by leasing of lockers that formed a bench that ran around the periphery of the main room.

Muir Lodge

The great storm of March 1-2, 1938 brought it all to an end.



Wm. C. Barry Collection

This view from April 24, 1938 shows the last gathering of Sierrans to take shelter beneath the roof of Muir Lodge

Muir Lodge

Little remains of Muir Lodge today



March, 1986, Cates Collection

No walls or foundations. But the sequoia still grows next to the trail.

Muir Lodge

Linda Hoyer holding the bronze plaque that once graced the structure



Cates Collection

Muir Lodge

Pastel drawing of Muir Lodge that hangs at Harwood Lodge



Cates Collection

Edgar W. Cook Collection

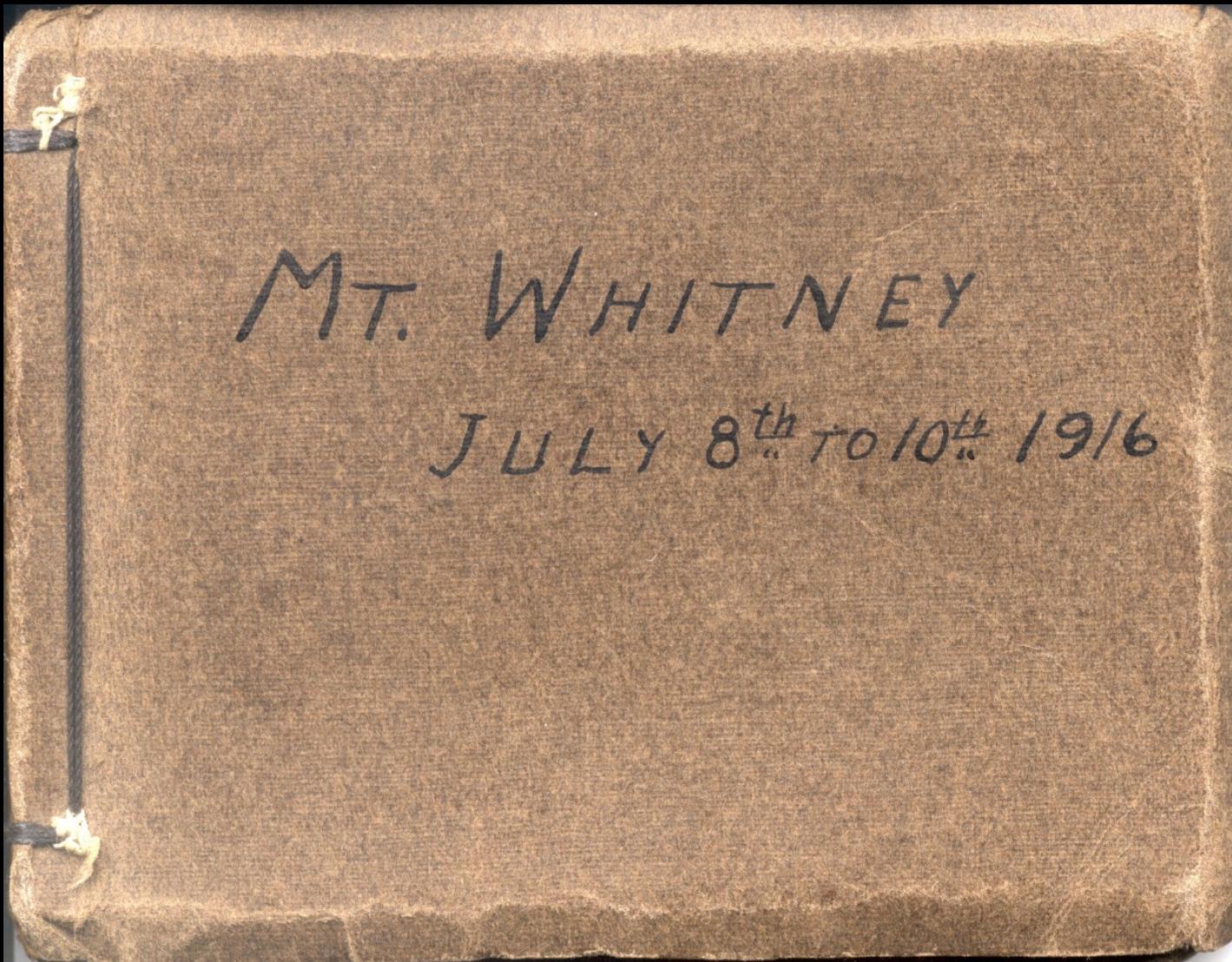


Edgar Cook at Switzer's Camp, 1918

- Engineer with the Pacific Electric Railway Company
- Forged the original andirons for Harwood Lodge
- Prolific hike leader and photographer
- Eldest of the 'CCC Boys' – Cook, Casperson, and Chalmers – The outstanding hike leaders of the 1920s and 30s.

Edgar W. Cook Collection

One Cook treasure is this album from 1916



Edgar W. Cook Collection

1916 Whitney Album



Lone Pine RR Station Grounds
before starting on hike 7-8-16
X Mt. Whitney

Edgar W. Cook Collection

1916 Whitney Album



Principal Street of
Lone Pine 4³⁰ 7-10-16

Edgar W. Cook Collection

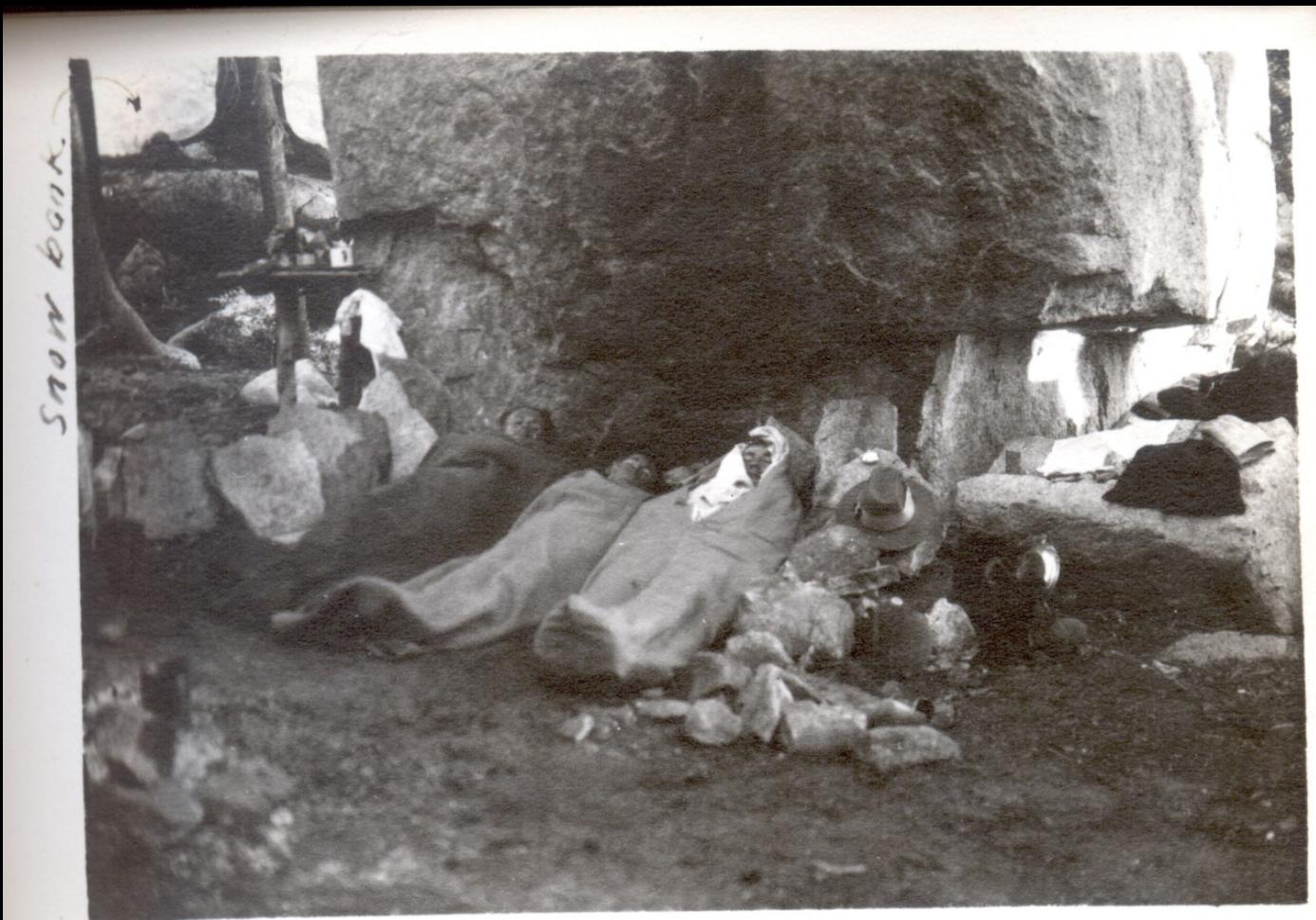
1916 Whitney Album



*Mt. Whitney from the road
through the Desert.*

Edgar W. Cook Collection

1916 Whitney Album



Timber Line Camp 10500 ft.

5⁰⁰ am 7-10-1916

Edgar W. Cook Collection

1916 Whitney Album



Breakfast at Timberline Camp
(10500ft.) with the Mosquitoes.
7-10-'16

Edgar W. Cook Collection

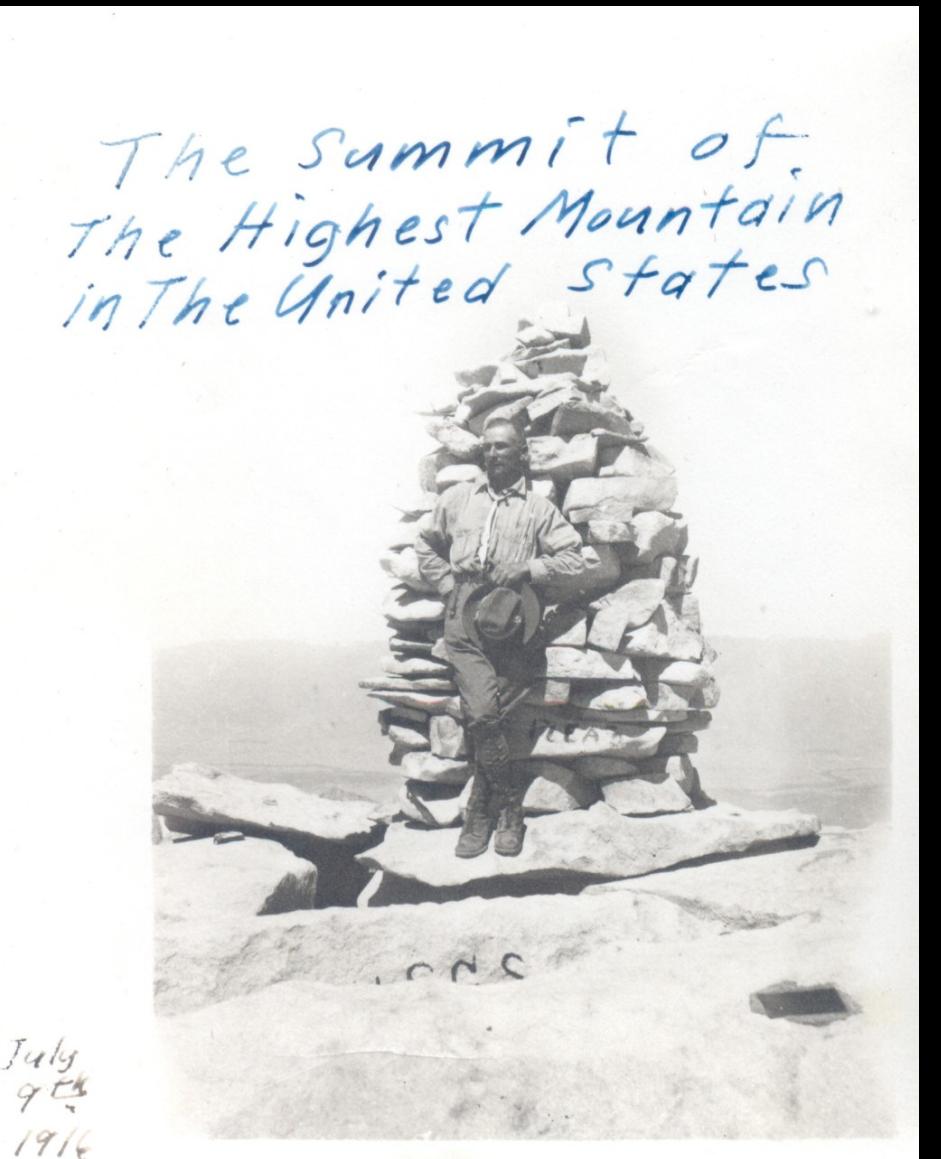
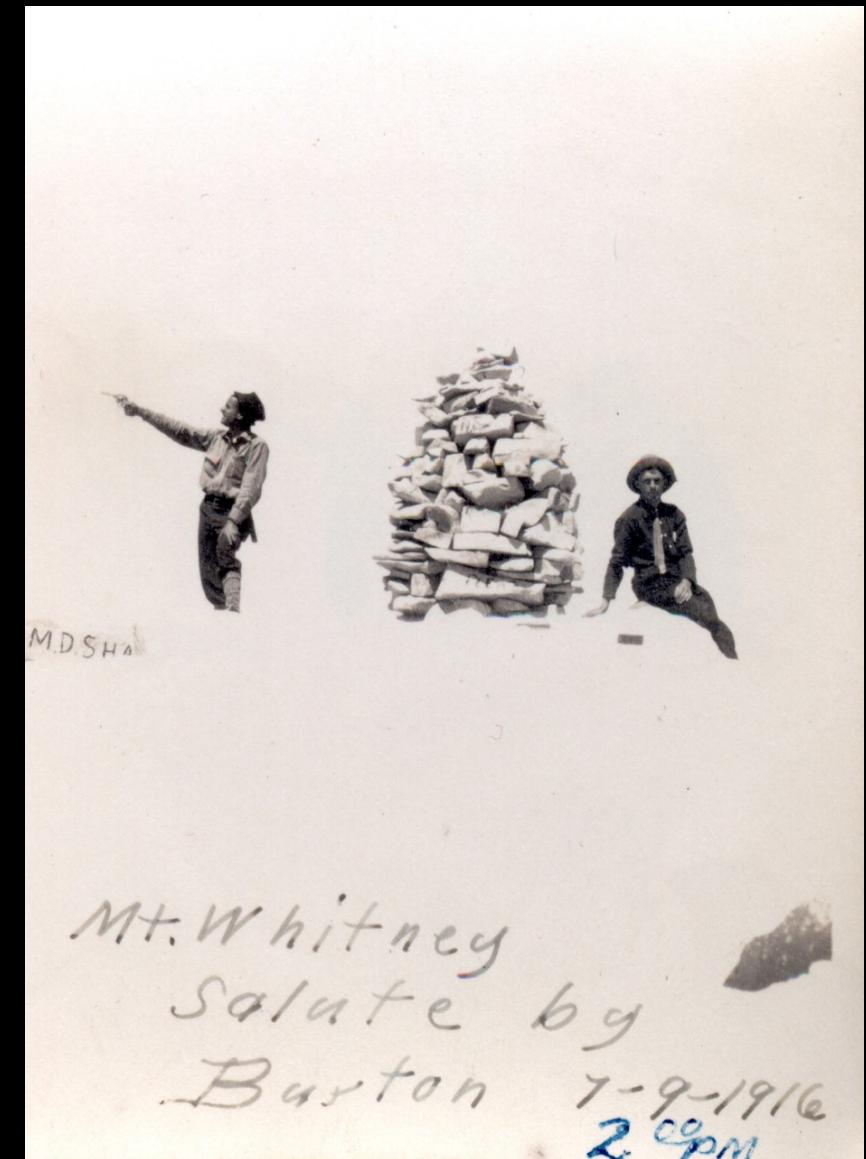
1916 Whitney Album



Smithsonian Institution
Bldg. on Summit

Edgar W. Cook Collection

1916 Whitney Album



Edgar W. Cook Collection

Conejo Pass in 1916 – Where the Ventura Freeway runs now



Conejo Pass 5-7-1916

Sespee fishing trip

Edgar W. Cook Collection



The 'CCC Boys' at the Baldy Cabin

L to R: Edgar Cook, Kasper Casperson, D.D. Chalmers

Edgar W. Cook Collection



Cook took this picture of Alice Bates on a climb of Mt. San Antonio on July 10, 1910.



Here's Alice still climbing 38 years later, in a group portrait on Oriflame Mtn taken by Niles Werner in 1948.

Glen Dawson Collection

The Glen Dawson Collection shows what it was like to grow up in the Sierra Club



“Backpacking at an early age”



At 29 Palms with Sally Olin and Father Ernest Dawson

Glen Dawson Collection

Ernest Dawson joined the Southern California Section shortly after its formation



Glen's Mother and Father (Sadie & Ernest) and Uncle and Aunt (Tom and Vi) were on this chapter outing c. 1912

Glen Dawson Collection

Glen was a precocious child who started climbing at a very early age



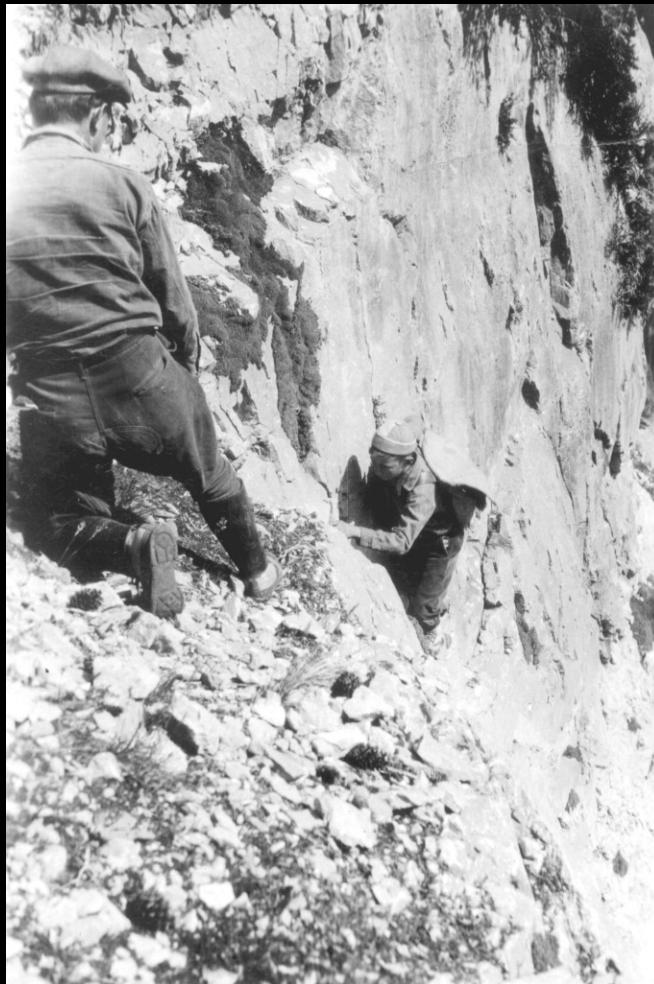
Scaling the roof at Terrace 49, Mt. Washington, Los Angeles, c. 1915



At Camp Seeley

Glen Dawson Collection

Father Ernest encouraged Glen to explore his limits



Climbing Mt. Charleston north of Las Vegas

Glen Dawson Collection

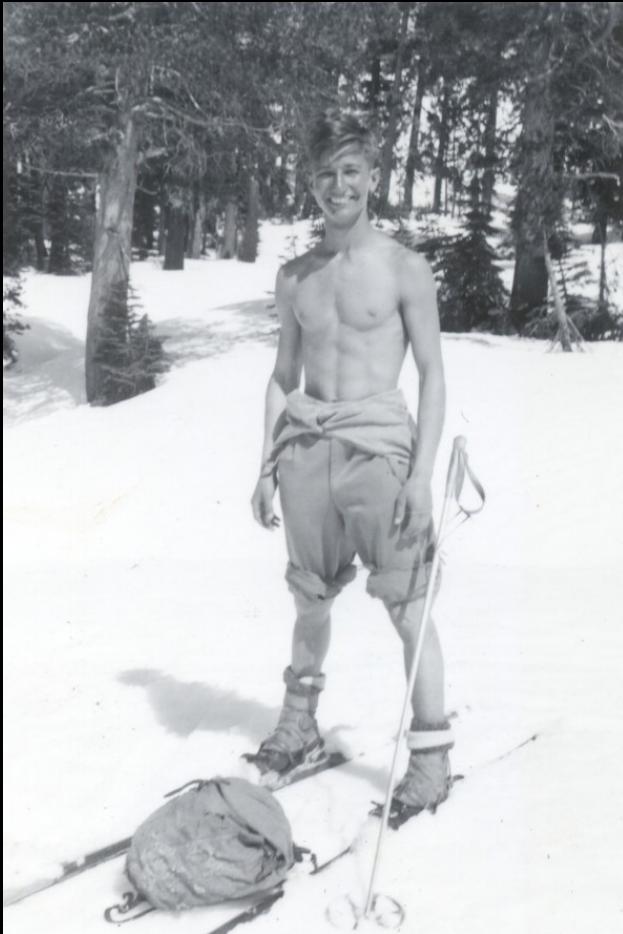
Ernest Dawson chaired the Local Walks Committee for many years, and was the first chapter leader to schedule longer weekend outings to desert areas.



Ernest went on to become a Club Director and eventually President of the Sierra Club

Glen Dawson Collection

Ernest was so enamored of the Sierra Club and its founding spirit that he named his second son Muir

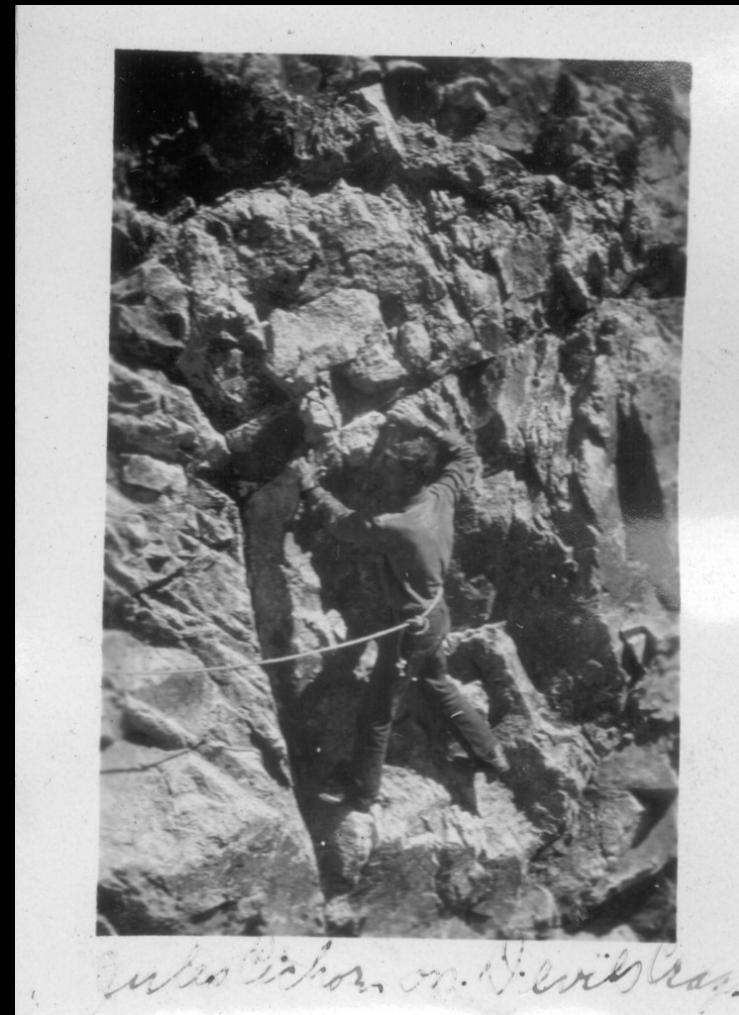


Muir was always grateful for the trips that
big brother Glen took him on

306, 347

Glen Dawson Collection

Glen, with climbing partners Jules Eichorn and John Poindexter, initiated properly roped climbing in the Sierra Nevada in 1930.



Climbing the Devil's Crags

Glen Dawson Collection

Palisades climbing school, 1930. Standing L to R: Francis Farquhar, Bestor Robinson, Glen Dawson, Neil Wilson, Lewis Clark. Front row, L to R: Robert Underhill, Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn, _____ Calumet, 1930



Glen Dawson Collection

Glen was in the party that made the first ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney



Day after the First Ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney,
August 16, 1931. Left to right, Jules Eichorn, Norman Clyde,
Robert L.M. Underhill, Glen Dawson. (Photo by Francis P. Farquhar).

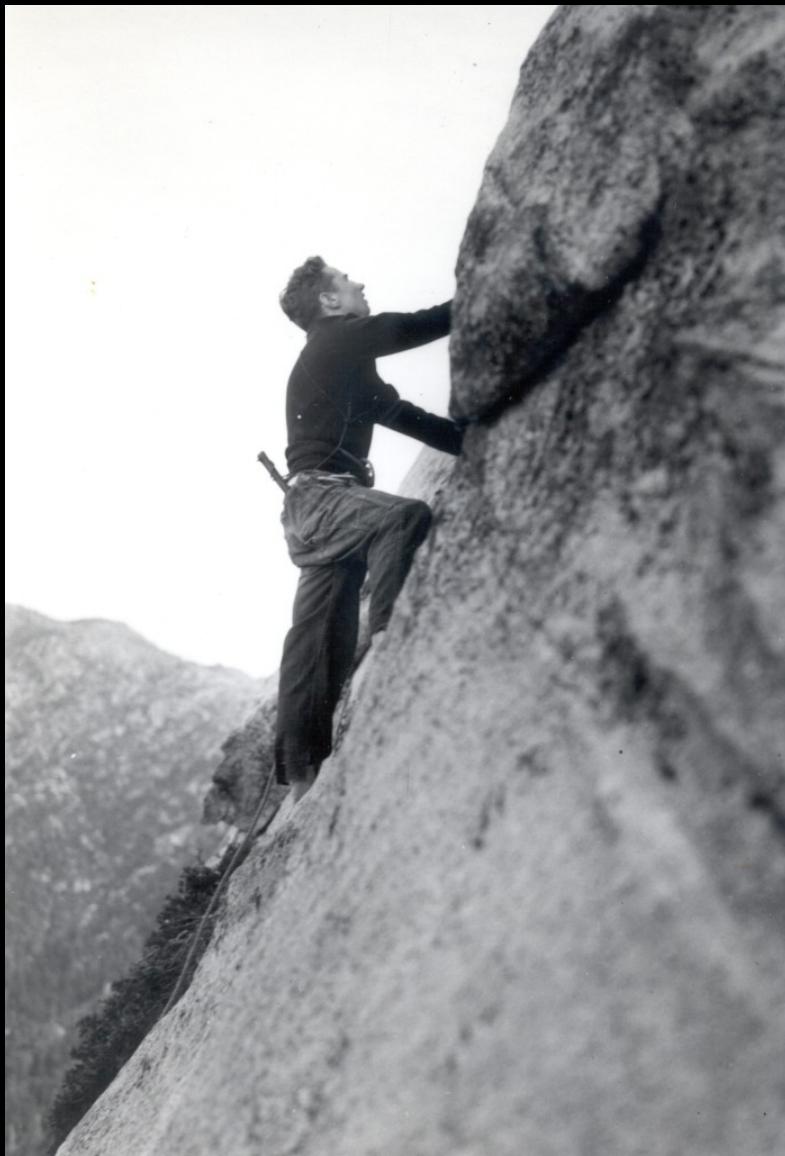
Glen Dawson Collection

Seven years later, he was back with younger brother Muir and other members of the Rock Climbing Section to pioneer the East Buttress route.



Members of the party who made first ascent of the East Buttress route on Mt. Whitney, September 5, 1937. Front row, L to R: Dick Jones, Muir Dawson, Glen Dawson. Back row, L to R: Bob Brinton, Howard Koster.

Glen Dawson Collection



We could do several whole programs on the Dawson Clan, and on Glen in particular

- First ascents in Sierra Nevada
- First ascents at Zion National Park
- First ascents at Tahquitz Rock
- Early desert peak climbs
- Involvement with founding of Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing sections
- Sierra Club Director
- Antiquarian Book Dealer
- Founder of L.A. Corral of Westerners
- First archivist of Angeles Chapter

H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant Collection

Bob Sturdevant was an excellent photographer who participated on many club outings in the late 1920s and into the 1930s. He created superb photo albums in which people, places and locations were identified.



H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant Collection



Sierra Club party at Colby Ranch, Jan. 25, 1931.

Rear row (from left): H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant (2nd), John Banks (5th, white pants), Art Johnson (6th), Luella Todd (7th), Robert Schonborn (9th, wearing glasses), Byron Schmidt (11th), Howard Sloan (12th, far rt). Front row, sitting, L to R: Dessie Daler, Frank Noel, Harry "Mutau" Wilson, Russell Hubbard.

H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant Collection



Sierra Club party on Mt. San Antonio. (Old Baldy.) 6-30-30.

Sierra Club party on summit of Mt. San Antonio, June 30, 1930. Back row standing, L to R: Frank Noel (binoculars), Niles Werner (wearing cap). Frontmost row (from left): Olive Warner (1st), Charles Warner (2nd), H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant (3rd), Deborah Cunningham (child, 6th), George Lewis (7th), Ernest Lehman (9th, holding hat), E.W. Cunningham (10th, far rt, Chapter Chair in 1949). D.D. Chalmers, wearing distinctive scarf head wrap, is sitting behind Charles Warner

H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant Collection

18



Sierra Club party on Mt. Langley, July 4, 1930. (EI. 14042)

L to R: Kasper Casperson (bandana), Niles Werner (foreground, wearing hat), D.D. Chalmers, four unidentified figures, Frank Noel (hatless, at far right).

H.R. “Bob” Sturdevant Collection

Some Places That Used to Be



Red Box Junction, 1930

Edna Gannon Collection



ALBUM PURCHASED ON eBay
THROUGH GRANT FROM ANGELES
CHAPTER FOUNDATION

Edna Gannon in typical hiking attire of the day,
circa 1916

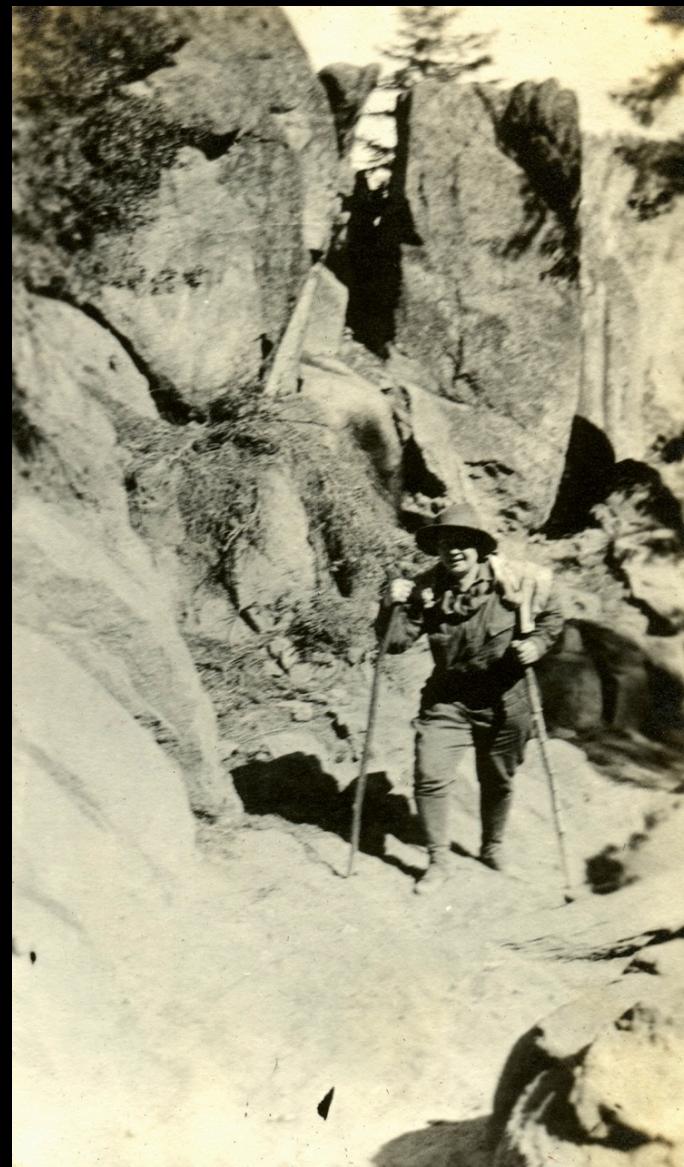
Edna Gannon Collection



Sierra Club group posing with cake at Camp Seeley, Feb. 19, 1921

Edna Gannon Collection

Unidentified woman hiking a trail in Yosemite in 1919. Note she is using two hiking staffs similar to today's hikers with modern hiking poles.



Alice Knapp Collection



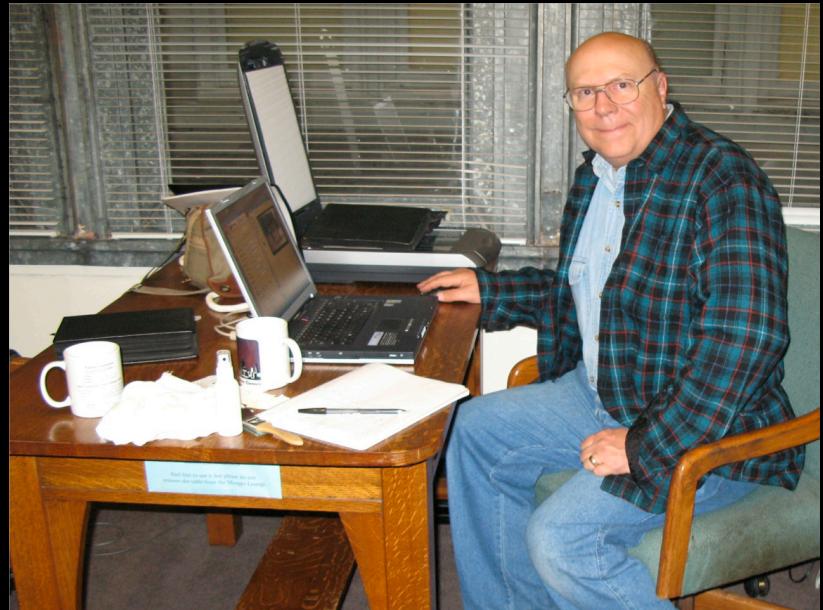
Colby Librarian Ellen Byrne and Bob Cates with the Alice E. Knapp Collection of photo albums at the Sierra Club Colby Library in San Francisco, November 14, 2006.

Alice Knapp Collection



The Alice Knapp Albums at the Colby Library

Alice Knapp Collection



Maureen Cates takes notes, while Bob Cates Scans at the Colby Library

Alice Knapp Collection



From Album titled "The White Heart of Death Valley." Alice Knapp driving her first automobile on "one of our better roads" during outing to Death Valley, April 4-11, 1925

Alice Knapp Collection



SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS
ON PALISADES GLACIER - BIG PINE, CALIF.

From album labeled "Mi Hijo – Vol 1b". Postcard photo labeled "Sierra Club Members on Palisades Glacier." No date, but c. 1928.

Alice Knapp Collection



From Album Volume 9, "Sierra Madre." Group of Sierrans roped up and descending Mount San Antonio, March 11, 1923. The two women climbers are (L to R) Ellen Colvin and Alice Knapp.

Alice Knapp Collection



From Album Vol 10A, "Sierra Altas II." Four backpackers in Sierra Nevada during "High Sierra Trip, August 31 – September 6, 1932." Alice Knapp is second from left, Howard Sloan at far right.

Alice Knapp Collection

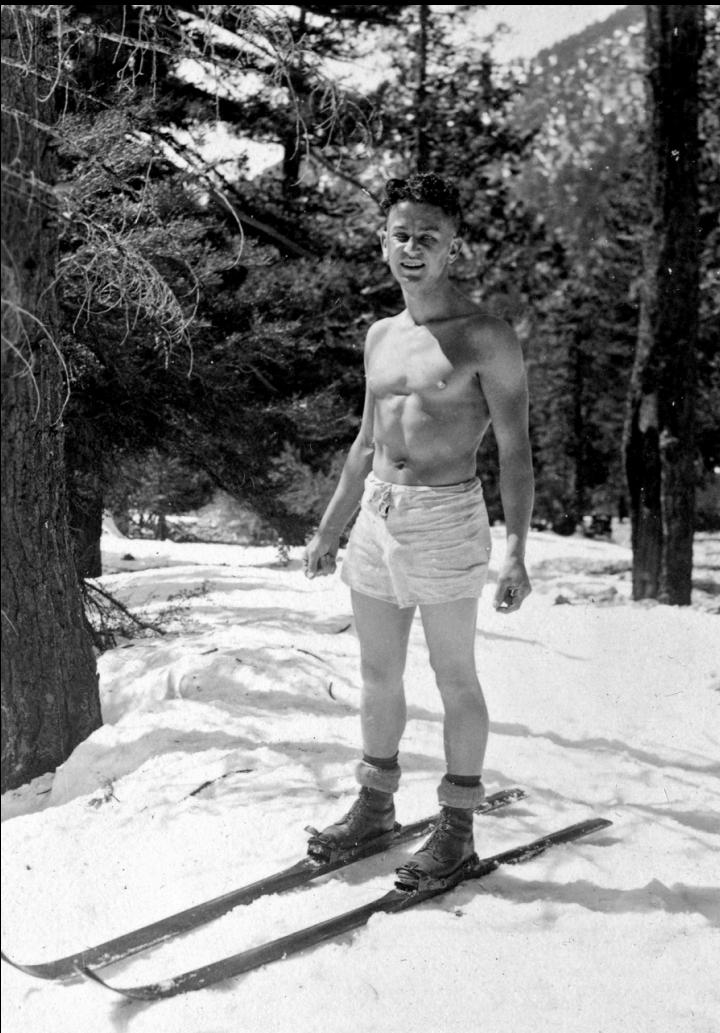


From Album Volume 4, titled "The Memory Trail." Mount Tyndall outing, July 3-4, 1931. Sierra Club group having watermelon break in camp. Seated figures, L to R: D.D. Chalmers, H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant (in front of Chalmers), unidentified woman, two unidentified men, Norman Clyde (far right). Standing figures, L to R: Niles Werner, unidentified man and woman, Kasper Casperson (bandana head scarf, holding watermelon), three unidentified women.



From Album Vol 10C, "Sierra Alta IV." Photo of Norman Clyde, c. 1932, labeled "Leader of our trip."

Alice Knapp Collection

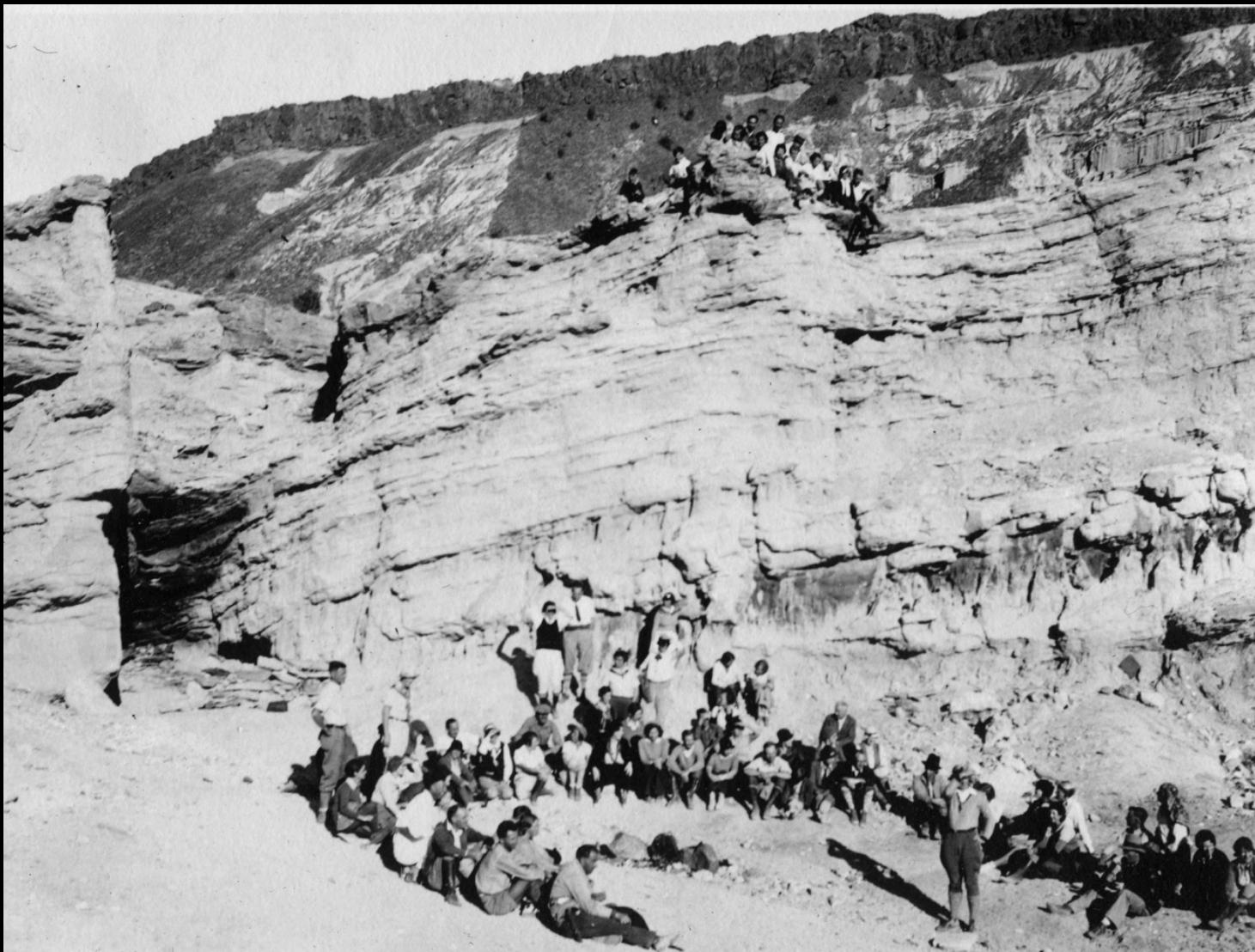


From Album Vol 9A, "Sierra Madre II." Barechested
Nathan C. Clark ("Nate Clark") on skis, c. 1934.
Labeled: "According to Nathan, the fewer the clothes,
the better for skiing."



From Album Vol 13, "Scrap Book I." Two women rafting across
the Los Angeles River, probably at/near Griffith Park, April 2, 1922.

Alice Knapp Collection



From Album Vol 6B, "My Desert Land III – Red Rock." Group posing for campfire photo in what is now Red Rock Canyon State Park, taken during outing conducted November 25-26, 1933.

Alice Knapp Collection



From album titled “The Memory Trail III – Vol 4b.” Sierra Club trip to Red Rock Canyon, February 9-10, 1935



From Album Vol 6C, “My Desert Land IV.” Five campers posing in front of old canvas tent and vintage automobiles near Indio, February 24-25, 1924.

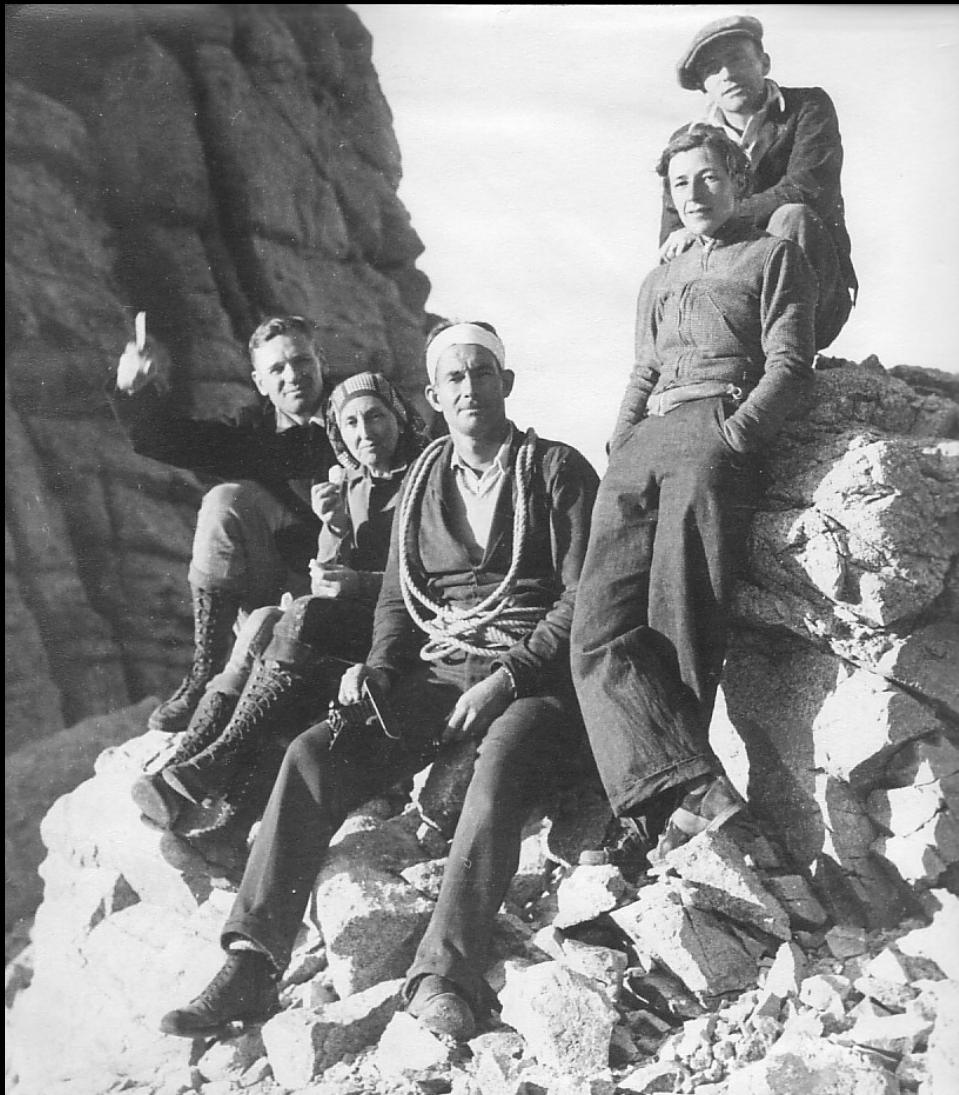
Beautiful People

A Partial Selection of Some of the Most Handsome People in the Archives



Balsam Collection

Beautiful People



Louise & Niles Werner Collection

Group on Mt. Whitney. L to R: Jerry Otto, Luella Todd, Dave Richardson, Louise Werner, unidentified

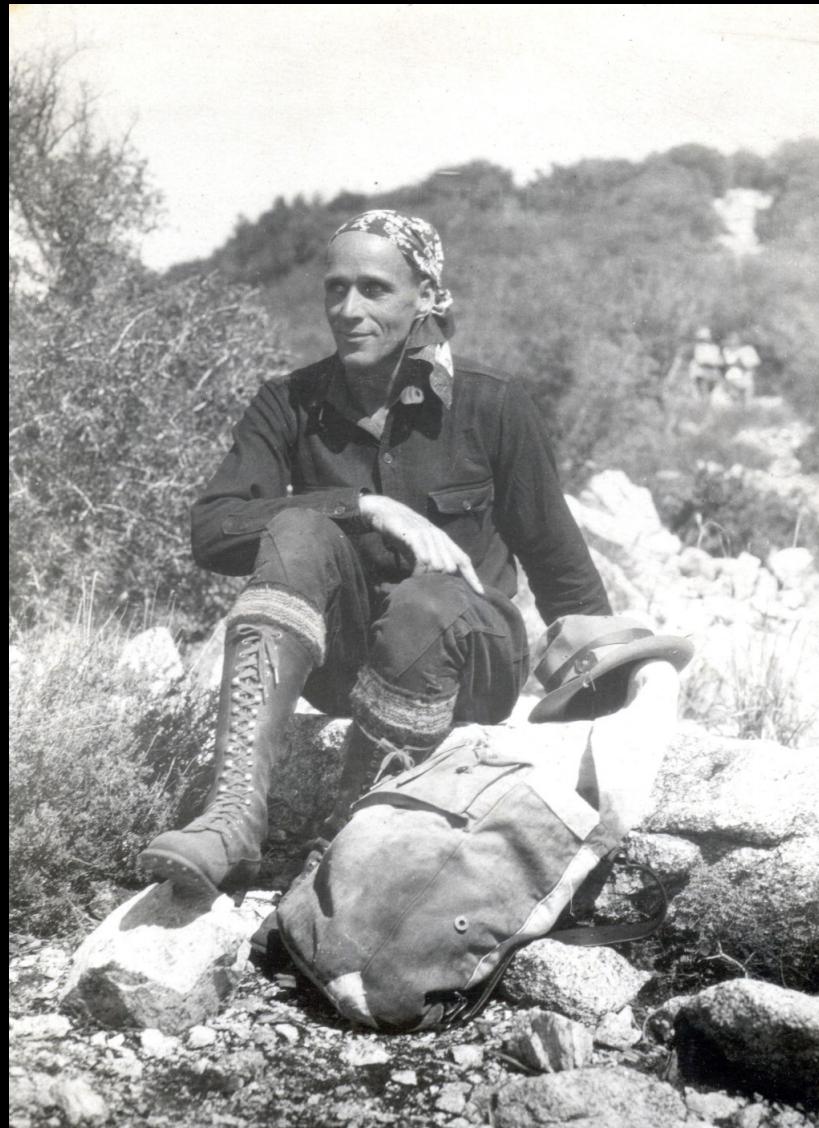
Beautiful People



Sturdevant Collection

L to R: H.R. "Bob" Sturdevant, unidentified woman, D.D. Chalmers, Alice E. Knapp, Jack Froud (?), two unidentified women, Kasper Casperson (hat & pipe), unidentified man

Beautiful People



Ellen Sparks Collection

D.D. Chalmers was the Rudolph Valentino of Hikers

Beautiful People

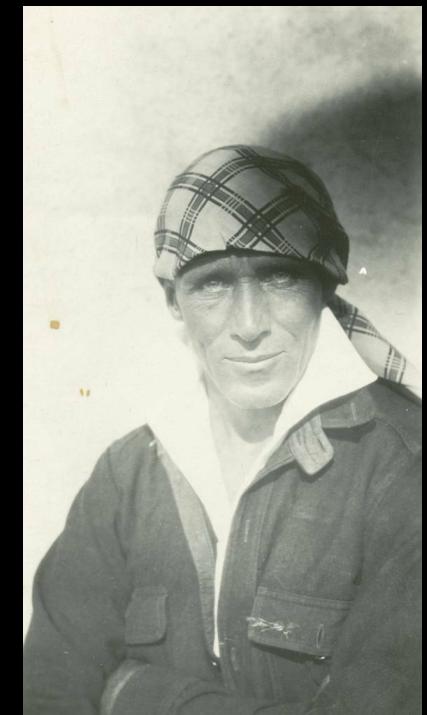
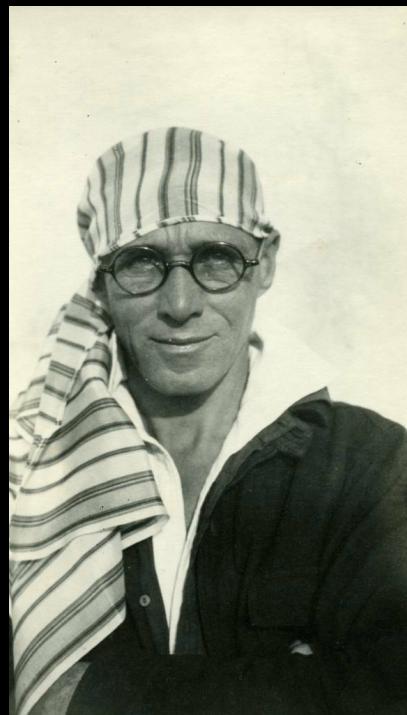
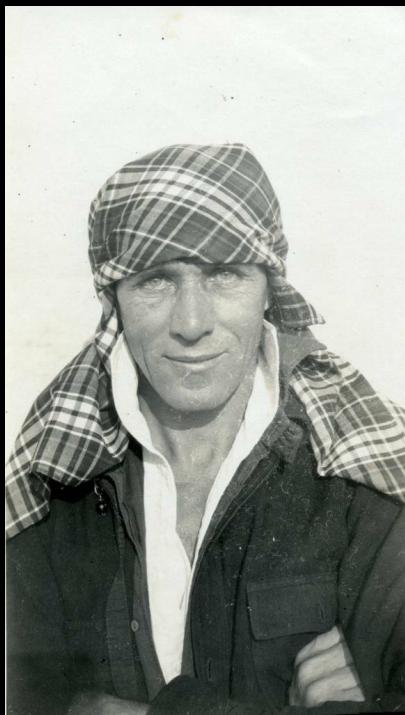
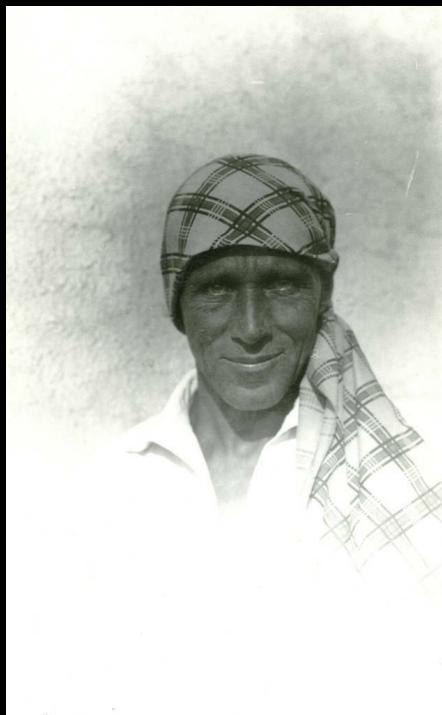


Ellen Sparks Collection

D.D. was usually accompanied by his harem.

Beautiful People

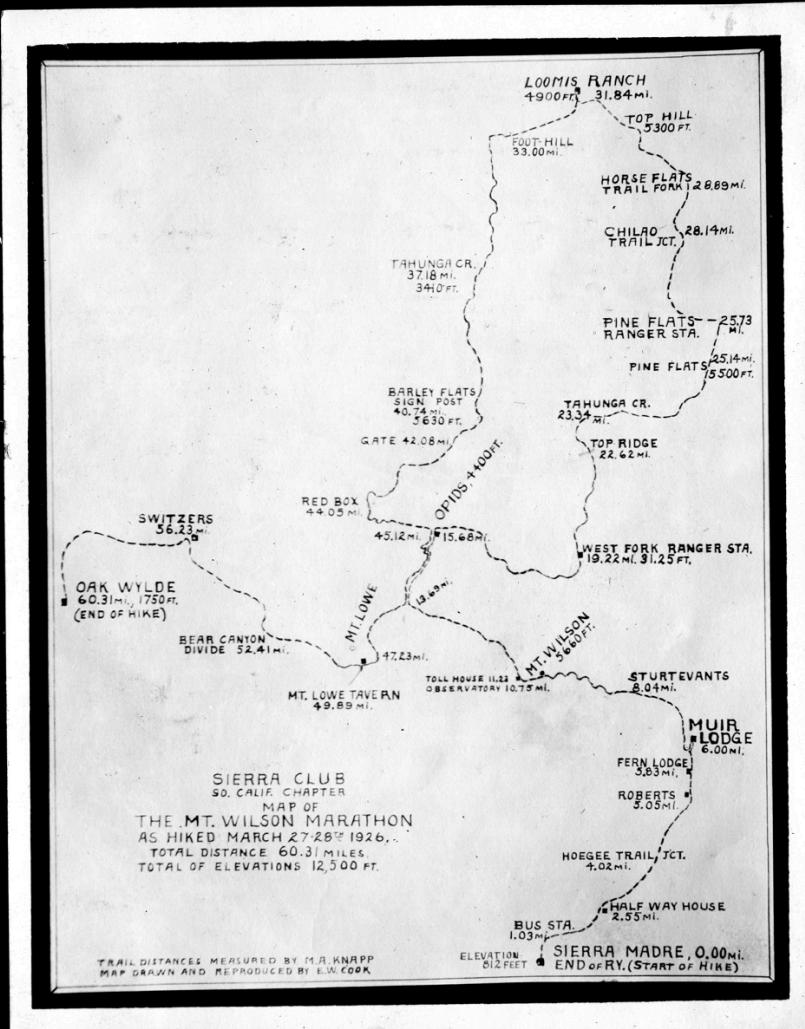
And no one outdid D.D. in tying a head-scarf



Chalmers Collection

Beautiful People – D.D. Chalmers

Above All Else. D. D. Was a Hiker Extraordinaire



60.31 Miles		12,500 Ft. Climbing
¶ Souvenir ¶		
OF THE		
Mt. Wilson Marathon Hike		
By the So. Calif. Chapter of the Sierra Club		
MARCH 27th-28th, 1926		
Mrs. Woolsey Knapp		
Witness	Time	
SIERRA MADRE		
K. Caspersen	3 P.M.	
K. Caspersen	3:30 P.M.	
K. Caspersen	4:59 P.M.	
H. Murray	5:45 P.M.	
Nra Knapp	5:25	
John T. Opid.	8:45	
WEST FORK RANGER STATION		
H. Murray	10:30 PM	
F.J. Baker	2:00 A.M.	
L. Johnson	4:30	
BARLEY FLATS RANGER STATION		
H. Murray	9:35 AM	
J.B. Clark	2:10	
Lloyd B. Austin	4:30	
H. E. Johnson	5:45	
ALPINE TAVERN		
SWITZERS	2:30	
OAK WILDE	4:30	

Knapp Collection

Beautiful People



SIERRA Club
RENDONDO BEACH



Sierra Club Women on Parade

Ellen Sparks Collection

Beautiful People



Louise & Niles Werner Collection

Climbing legend Barbara Lilley, photographed by Niles Werner in the early 1950s

Beautiful People



Balsam Collection

Desert-Peaker Rosie Kent Balsam photographed in 1948

Beautiful People



Nada Berger, Maureen Cates, Delores Holladay on a climb of Weaver's Needle, Arizona, Thanksgiving 1973. Photo by Bob Cates

The End



Anonymous Collection